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TESTIMONY OF CHARLES HOURIET
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

FILED ON BEHALF OF
THE STAFF OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEMS: AMELIA ISLAND, BEECHERS POINT, PALM PORT, PARK MANOR AND
SILVER LAKE OAKS WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

COUNTIES: NASSAU AND PUTNAM

DOCKET NO. 920199-WS - APPLICATION FOR A RATE INCREASE BY
SOUTHERN STATES UTILITIES, INC.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CHARLES HOURIET

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Charles Houriet and my business address is Florida DER, 7825 Baymeadows Way, Jacksonville, FL. The zip code is 32256-7577

Q. Please state a brief description of your educational background and experience.

A. I received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Florida in 1950. I have gained varied types of experience in engineering since that time.

Q. By whom are you presently employed?

A. I am presently employed by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation.

Q. How long have you been employed with the Department of Environmental Regulation and in what capacity?

A. I have been employed by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation since December 1985.

Q. What are your general responsibilities at the Department of Environmental Regulation?

A. I am a supervisor in the Domestic Waste Compliance and Enforcement Section. This section of DER determines utility compliance with DER regulations and recommends enforcement action.

Q. Are you familiar with Southern States Utilities wastewater systems in Nassau and Putnam Counties, particularly the Amelia Island, Beechers Point, Palm Port, Park Manor, and Silver Lake Oaks systems?

A. Yes. However, I have not visited the Amelia Island system recently and

1 | have not seen the latest changes. Also with regard to the systems, which are
2 | in Putnam county, my knowledge is mostly based on file review. No current DER
3 | Northeast District employee has visited all of those systems.

4 | Q. Do the utilities have current operating permits from the Department of
5 | Environmental Regulation?

6 | A. Yes.

7 | Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the operating
8 | permits.

9 | A. For Amelia Island, the operation permit number is D045-180686. This
10 | permit was issued on June 21, 1990 and expires on 6/21/95. The Beechers Point
11 | wastewater operating permit was issued on June 22, 1988 and expires on June
12 | 22, 1993. The Palm Port wastewater operating permit was issued on June 2, 1988
13 | and expires on June 2, 1993. The Park Manor wastewater operating permit was
14 | issued on June 9, 1988 and expires on June 9, 1993. The Silver Lake Oaks
15 | wastewater operating permit was issued on August 9, 1991 and expires on August
16 | 9, 1996.

17 | Q. Are the plants in compliance with their permits?

18 | A. Yes, the plants are in compliance with their permits to the best of the
19 | department's knowledge. However at the Beechers Point system, the average
20 | nitrate-nitrogen during the period 6/91 to 5/92 was 15ppm. This exceeds the
21 | permitted level of 12ppm.

22 | Q. Are the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal facilities
23 | adequate to serve present customers based on permitted capacity?

24 | A. Yes, for all of the wastewater systems the wastewater collection,
25 | treatment and disposal facilities are adequate to serve present customers

1 | based on permitted capacity.

2 | Q. Are the treatment and disposal facilities located in accordance with
3 | Rule 17-600, Florida Administrative Code?

4 | A. Yes. According to DER records, the treatment and disposal facilities are
5 | located in accordance with rule 17-600, Florida Administrative code. Regarding
6 | the Silver Lake Oaks system, there was a problem with the drainfield under the
7 | previous owner. SSU relocated and built a new drainfield in 1990.

8 | Q. Has DER required any of the systems to take any action so as to minimize
9 | possible adverse effects resulting from odors, noise, aerosol drift or
10 | lighting?

11 | A. No.

12 | Q. Do the pump stations and lift stations meet DER requirements with
13 | respect to location, reliability and safety?

14 | A. Yes, based on permit applications and plans the pump stations and
15 | liftstations meet DER requirements with respect to location, reliability and
16 | safety.

17 | Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Chapter 17-602,
18 | Florida Administrative Code?

19 | A. Yes, according to the operation logs and monthly reports submitted by
20 | SSU.

21 | Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment, collection, and disposal
22 | facilities satisfactory?

23 | A. Yes. DER has not received any recent complaints.

24 | Q. Does the facility meet all applicable technology based effluent
25 | limitations (TBELS)?

1 A. The Amelia Island facility meets the requirements of 17-600.420, Florida
2 Administrative Code, (TBELS). The effluent is discharged to a land reuse
3 system. For the Putnam County systems, yes, except for the Beechers Point
4 system. As stated before, the annual average nitrate-nitrogen level is 15ppm.
5 which exceeds the permitted level of 12ppm.

6 Q. Do the facilities meet the effluent disposal requirements of Sections
7 17-610, Florida Administrative Code?

8 A. Yes, the facilities meet the requirements of 17-610 Florida
9 Administrative Code. However, prior to cleaning the percolation ponds at the
10 Palm Port system earlier this year, the freeboard level was frequently less
11 than the required 3 feet. SSU representatives now indicate proper freeboard
12 is now provided.

13 Q. Are the collection, treatment and disposal facilities in compliance with
14 all the other provisions of Chapter 17, Florida Administrative Code, not
15 previously mentioned?

16 A. Yes, although DER does not have the personnel to inspect all phases of
17 construction and operation, the collection, treatment and disposal facilities
18 appear to be in compliance with all of the provisions of Chapter 17, Florida
19 Administrative Code.

20 Q. Have any of the SSU Nassau and Putnam County systems been the subject
21 of any Department of Environmental Regulation enforcement action within the
22 past two years?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

25 A. No, I do not.